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RL:0434

HR 327/HCR 158
REQUESTING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII
TO JOIN IN THE PETITION FILED BY AND ON BEHALF OF CITIZENS OF
PACIFIC ISLANDS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PACIFIC GOVERNMENTS
TO INVESTIGATE THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL FOR
PACIFIC OCEAN NUCLEAR WASTE DUMPING

Statement for
House Committees on
Energy, Ecology and Environmental Protection
Water, Land Use Development and Hawaiian Affairs
Public Hearing - 20 March 1981

By
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Garret Kawamura, Environmental Center

HR 327 (HCR 158) requests that the House of Representatives (Legislature) of the State of Hawaii join in the petition prepared by the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands requesting the Japanese Diet to hold a hearing on their proposed nuclear dumping. This statement on HR 327 (HCR 158) does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The intent of this resolution is to express to the Japanese government Hawaii's concern about ocean nuclear waste dumping in the Pacific Ocean. Before Hawaii formally supports the petition, however, the document should be carefully reviewed to ensure that it accurately conveys the State's concerns. If we are, in fact, offering our technical services and facilities to Japan, prior approval from or consultation with, the federal government may be appropriate or necessary. The Legislature, therefore, should first determine if this petition has received support from Washington D.C. and if not, whether the petition is consistent with our national policies. There is no doubt that federal support will give this petition added significance.

Copies of the petition should be made available to both the Legislature and the citizens of Hawaii. Our efforts to locate a copy of the document revealed that there are just a few copies available on Oahu. Since we were unable to obtain a copy, or access to a copy, in the time available for review we are unable to offer more substantive comments on this resolution.